

From the Army Acquisition Executive

FCS Supportability

With this issue, we continue our focus on the Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS). The program is on the contracted schedule, on cost and executing to plan. This success is a source of great pride to us and is the result of a lot of planning and hard work by an integrated industry team that operates in full partnership with the U.S. Army — "OneTeam" from day one.



FCS is the core building block of the Army's Future Force, a full-spectrum force that is not only more lethal, but also faster to deploy and easier to sustain. The FCS OneTeam is so committed to reducing the logistics footprint that two of seven key performance parameters (KPPs) are logistics related: KPP 4 Transportability/Deployability and KPP 5 Sustainability/Reliability. This puts these KPPs at the same level as traditional requirements such as lethality, survivability and mobility.

The *Transportability/Deployability KPP* will ensure the global reach of a combat-ready Brigade Combat Team (BCT) by air, ground or sea assets within days — not weeks or months. Innovative survivability techniques, along with other technologies complemented by the network, allow significant weight and size reductions without compromising lethality, mobility or crew protection.

The *Sustainability/Reliability KPP* will meet unprecedented supportability goals by maximizing available combat power through high platform reliability, while significantly reducing the demand for maintenance and supply. The enablers to accomplish these aggressive goals are superior reliability, availability and maintainability, which are further supported by commonality, embedded diagnostics and prognostics, rapid component replacement and minimal tools — all tied together by an integrated network database and an unprecedented level of embedded training that ensures operator/maintainer skill sets as well as en route training and mission rehearsal capabilities.

What will this mean to the Future Force? Picture what it takes to support the force. For example, you must have fuel. You must have trucks to drive the fuel to where it is

needed. You must have drivers for those trucks. You must have mechanics for those trucks. You must have cooks for those drivers, you must have medics for those drivers and you must have housing for everyone. Now, what happens if you significantly reduce the fuel requirement? It will have a multiplicative impact in several areas because less fuel means fewer fuel trucks; fewer fuel trucks mean fewer drivers and mechanics; fewer drivers and mechanics mean fewer cooks and medics; fewer cooks and medics mean fewer supply trucks. Fuel efficiency is just one FCS requirement.

The complete FCS System-of-Systems specification contains more than 10,000 technical requirements, of which more than 30 percent are related directly to sustainability. This unprecedented focus on sustainment requirements early in a program will positively influence design during the current System Development and Demonstration phase when the most significant effects on life-cycle cost are achieved. The requirements identified in the tiered series of specifications will ensure that each individual system within the FCS Family-of-Systems has all the required functionality to perform its mission as well as sustain itself in a deployed FCS BCT for a 72-hour combat operation without external resupply/maintenance.

Specific requirements that are revolutionary in comparison to Current Force supportability include a threshold requirement for 95-percent platform operational availability; a requirement for 80 percent of field maintenance tasks to be accomplished by the crew chief in 30 minutes or less using 10 common tools; and total asset visibility of supplies, sustainment resources and needs. These and many other enablers will serve to significantly reduce the logistics footprint and dramatically lower total operating costs.

The FCS program is changing the way we do business, particularly in our approach to sustainment. We must ensure that this "new" approach is promulgated as the way to do business in the Army — not only with FCS, but also with all our future programs. We have a dedicated team, and it is clearly a winning team.

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